Application No.: 10/540,402

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

 (Currently Amended) A <u>An ex vivo</u> method for up regulating runt-related transcription factor3 (RUNX3) expression in a subject, comprising:

delivering an active agent to immune cells of said subject having low activity or no activity of RUNX3 gene product, wherein said active agent induces in vitro expression or over-expression of RUNX3 in said immune cells of said subject and

<u>administering back said in vitro-expressed or -over-expressed RUNX3 stem cells</u> to said subject, thereby inhibiting the proliferation of T-cells in said subject.

- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said immune cells are selected from the group consisting of thymocytes and dendritic cells (DC).
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said immune cells are dendritic cells.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said active agent reduces the proportion of mature dendritic cells versus immature dendritic cells in said subject.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said reduction in the
 proportion of mature dendritic cells versus immature dendritic cells is determined by a reduction
 in the proportion of dendritic cells expressing CD80, CD86, MHC class II and OX40L.
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a polynucleotide encoding RUNX3 and a polynucleotide encoding a RUNX3 promoter activator.

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 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said polynucleotides further comprise a viral-based vector.

- 8. (Canceled)
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said immune cells are
 from a subject with a T-cell mediated inflammation disorder that is selected from the group
 consisting of asthma, allergic asthma, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

10-12. (Canceled)

 (Currently Amended) A <u>An ex vivo</u> method for reducing the proportion of mature dendritic cells versus immature dendritic cells in a subject, comprising:

delivering an active agent to immune cells of said subject having low activity or no activity of runt-related transcription 3 factor (RUNX3) gene product, wherein said active agent induces in vitro expression or over-expression of RUNX3 in said immune cells of said subject and

administering back said in vitro-expressed or -over-expressed RUNX3 stem cells to said subject, thereby reducing the proportion of mature dendritic cells versus immature dendritic cells in said subject.

- 14-48. (Canceled)
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said immune cells are selected from the group consisting of thymocytes and dendritic cells (DC).
- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a polynucleotide encoding RUNX3 and a polynucleotide encoding a RUNX3 promoter activator.

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 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said polynucleotides further comprise a viral-based vector.

- 52. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said reduction in the proportion of mature dendritic cells versus immature dendritic cells is determined by a reduction in the proportion of dendritic cells expressing CD80, CD86, MHC class II and OX40L.
- 53. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said immune cells are from a subject with a T-cell mediated inflammation disorder that is selected from the group consisting of asthma, allergic asthma, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.